

So we have our Senate bill, but the National Rifle Association prevailed over in the House. I say to the Senator from Nevada, I wish that I could tell you that I was shocked that the National Rifle Association would be so careless as to send a membership application to a 13-year-old. But when I look at what they did in the U.S. House of Representatives to a good bill, a bill that would have said we are going to have background checks at gun shows so we know that we are not selling to criminals and kids, and Senator Feinstein's amendment that would have prohibited importing these big magazine clips that are just used by gangbangers—they have no value in sport or hunting—and to make sure we have trigger locks so when kids find a gun in the house, they won't pull the trigger and kill themselves, the NRA opposed that.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend from Illinois, that kind of reminds me of our debate on the Patients' Bill of Rights. They call their bill a "Patients' Bill of Rights", but it does not give patients any rights. On the gun issue, they say they had in the House bill protection against gun shows because they had a 24-hour time limit, but they know that most gun shows are on weekends and they can't research on the weekends, so basically nothing would happen; is that right?

Mr. DURBIN. They are very similar, and the Senator is correct. The National Rifle Association is trying to put up some figleaf and say they are really for gun control. America knows better. We have been listening to these folks for a long time. They were opposed to the prohibition against cop-killer bullets—special bullets that would penetrate the bulletproof vests worn by policemen—because it infringed on people's constitutional rights. Give me a break. There isn't a right in the Bill of Rights that isn't limited for the common good.

Mr. REID. I would like the Senator from Illinois to comment on the second and third paragraphs of this letter from Mr. Brody:

As we strive in our community to ensure that our schools are safe for our children, one of the biggest fears that parents have is a gun at school. We have been able to turn her particular school around from a very violent and non-academic oriented institution to one that we are all very proud of and where the students are doing extremely well.

I am absolutely amazed that the National Rifle Association would have the audacity to mail membership applications to children. At some point, I believe this must be part of our government regulations. Will my youngest 11-year-old daughter be contacted next with another outrageous suggestion that is only supporting violence?

Would the Senator say that Mr. Brody is out of line in writing this letter and crying out for help that his 11-year-old daughter and 13-year-old daughter aren't given a membership—I

mean, they got it; she has a card here that looks like a credit card. It says 13-year-old Brittany Brody is a member of the NRA.

Mr. DURBIN. I say to my colleague, I know he is a father and he is proud of his family, and I am, too. Think about this. This father saw this come through the mail. Think of the world we live in, with the Internet and the webs. How many others are trying to lure kids into the purchase of weapons or a membership in a National Rifle Association and the like? I really think when we talk about responsibility and accountability, it applies to parents and it applies to organizations such as the NRA as well.

I say to my friend from Nevada that he raises an excellent point. If we are going to make sure our kids have a fighting chance, we have to keep guns out of their hands. When the Senator from Nevada and I were both growing up a few years ago, there were always troubled kids in the schools. We called them bullies in those days. You feared getting punched in the nose on the playground. I wish that is all our kids had to fear today. Now they have to fear that the bully will get a gun and show up in school, as it happened in Conyers, GA; at Columbine High School; Jonesboro; West Paducah; Springfield, Oregon; Pearl, Mississippi. Those unfortunate incidents are the reality of the dangers our kids can face.

Mr. REID. My time is about to expire, but I am here today to alert this body that we are going to make sure that when there is a call for conferees to be appointed on the juvenile justice bill, that we act appropriately, that we send a message to the conferees that we don't want business as usual, that we want the National Rifle Association to understand that the vast majority of Americans do not agree with them.

The Senator from Illinois would agree that when the conferees are called, we are going to ask for a resolution to send to the conferees that they should follow what is already taking place in the Senate that, in effect, says a majority of the people of this country are in agreement with the Senate; is that true?

Mr. DURBIN. I say to the Senator from Nevada that the Democrats may be in the minority in the Senate. I believe our position for sensible gun control to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and kids is a majority opinion in America. I think our position for the Patients' Bill of Rights, so doctors make decisions and not insurance companies, is a majority opinion in America. We are going to fight for that.

I thank the Senator for his leadership.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, how much time does the Senator have?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada has 12 seconds.

Mr. REID. I yield that time.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senator from Maryland just arrived. I ask unanimous consent that she be allowed to speak as if in morning business for 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Acting as an independent Senator from Kansas, I object.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Maryland be allowed to speak in morning business for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The acting Presiding Officer informs the Senator from Nevada that the majority has 25 minutes and that there is a Senator expected on the floor at any moment. Would the Senator like to repeat his request?

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Senator from Maryland be allowed to speak 10 minutes and that the morning hour be extended for 35 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Acting as an independent Senator from Kansas, I object.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak in morning business for no more than 5 minutes.

Mr. NICKLES. Will the Senator repeat the request?

Ms. MIKULSKI. I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as if in morning business for no more than 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. NICKLES. If I might engage my colleague from Nevada, are there additional Senators requesting time on his side?

Mr. REID. No.

Mr. NICKLES. This Senator has no objection to the request. I was going to suggest that we give an additional 15 minutes on both sides.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended for an additional 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The distinguished Senator from Maryland is recognized.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I thank the whip from the Democratic side, and I also thank the Senator from Oklahoma for his graciousness.